

BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S PRESS CONFERENCE
AUGUST 20, 1963

QUESTION: Can you say whether the United States is financially or otherwise supporting the Cuban refugee underground?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT

On August 13 the Washington Post under Kurzman by-line carried a story that the United States "is engaged in a concentrated effort to build up a strong underground network in Cuba," adding that the effort began in May or June and consists of smuggling Cuban exile agents, cash, arms and "other equipment" into Cuba. Department spokesman, in answer to question, replied "I don't know anything about the subject, but if I did I would not discuss it."

SUGGESTED POINTS IN PRESIDENT'S REPLY

Do not consider it would serve any useful purpose for me to discuss reports of this type.